

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2008

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 7:30 p.m. in the Alcott School Auditorium.

Present were Margaret B. Briggs, Chair; Virginia McIntyre; Anne D. Shapiro; Stanly E. Black, and Gregory P. Howes, Clerk. Also present was Christopher Whelan, Town Manager.

The Board convened in open session for the Board of Selectmen Hearing on the 2008 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. At the conclusion of article presentations, the Board remained in session to consider its positions on Articles.

Ms. Briggs reviewed the upcoming meetings and the business that needed to be accomplished before the Finance Committee Report is delivered to the printer. Should the Board have insufficient time to reach positions, and additional meeting has been posted. This will be cancelled if there is no need for it.

SELECTMEN POSITIONS ON THE ANNUAL WARRANT

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Articles 3, 5, 6

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 4 in the amount of 100 voters. (yes-4, no-Shapiro)

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 7 in the amount of \$30,882,206.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 8 in the amount of \$27,206,200.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 9A in the amount of \$21,381,332, of which the Concord assessment is \$13,488,028.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 9B in the amount of \$486,660.

The Town Manager agreed to ask the Concord Representative on the Minuteman School Committee to make a status report in the fall regarding out of district and special education student costs.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 11 in the amount of \$600,000.

The amount of Free Cash to be used can be lowered but not increased by Town Meeting.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: No Motion Expected on Article 12.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 13.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Articles 14, 15 that are on the Consent Agenda. (yes-4, no-Shapiro)

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on 16.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board

Position on Warrant

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VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Articles 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 that are on the Consent Agenda. (yes-4, no-Shapiro)

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 22.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Articles 24 and 25

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to make its Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 26.

The Board understands that the School Department is hoping to avoid moving this article.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 34.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board
VOTED: to recommend No Action on Article 35. (yes 4, No-Shapiro)

It is anticipated that the article will be reworked due to the variety of comments at the Hearing. The Board will revisit the Motion in its final form.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Articles 45, 46, 47, 48.

Discussion regarding Article 10, the Stabilization Fund included: the Town has a policy of retaining at least 5% of the budget in Free Cash; \$2.5MM is half the amount of Free Cash available above the 5% floor; the purposed use of the fund is for lowering peak tax impacts due to school construction debt; there is an obligation to current taxpayers to provide relief now; the source of the abundance of Free Cash is non-recurring events; the Town should have created such a fund in the past; an aggressive authorization of Free Cash could provide relief now, the difference would be in the ability to earn interest at a greater rate in a stabilization fund—as much as \$200,000; increases in taxes will occur from diminished State aid as well as capital expenses.

It takes a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Town Meeting to create and to remove funds from a stabilization fund; as debt is paid down the Town should replenish the fund to the extent possible; the fund is an attempt to manage spikes not simply to distribute a windfall; consider a compromise of using more Free Cash that is typical without using a special fund; Town Meeting could use stabilization fund monies for any other purpose as long as there is a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Upon a Motion duly made and Seconded, the Board
VOTED: to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 10 in the amount of \$2.5MM. (yes-3, no-McIntyre, Shapiro)

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Open Session and to conclude business for the evening.

Anne D. Shapiro	Aye
Virginia McIntyre	Aye
Stanly E. Black	Aye
Gregory P. Howes	Aye
Margaret B. Briggs	Aye

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory P. Howes, Clerk

Adjourn

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